



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEXICAN WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CHILD SMUGGLING

TUCSON, Ariz. – Maria Dolores Garnica-Gonzalez, age 30, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Rodney Webb. Garnica-Gonzalez pleaded guilty on December 2, 2004 to charges of Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens for Profit in violation of Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i).

On September 30, 2004, immigration authorities working the Nogales, Ariz., port of entry received a request for admission into the U.S. from Garnica-Gonzalez who was in the pedestrian lane. She was traveling with a 4-year-old boy, whom she stated she was babysitting. She presented laser visas for both herself and the child. Immigration authorities did not believe the visa presented for the child was actually his. When questioned further, Garnica admitted that the child was a citizen of Mexico who did not have proper documentation allowing him to enter the U.S. She said she was approached by an unknown man in Nogales, Mexico, who offered to pay her \$90 to take the child across the border to a restaurant in Nogales, Ariz., where family would be waiting. She would then be paid by a woman who was waiting with the family. The child was identified as a Mexican citizen in the country illegally.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Nogales, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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